



## **Town of Camden Select Board Meeting October 28, 2014 – 6:30pm**

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Martin Cates, John French, Jr., James Heard, Leonard Lookner, Donald White, and Town Manager Finnigan. Also present were members of the press and public.

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

*Don White made a motion to take the agenda item concerning the Windjammer Festival out of order. John French seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

### **Camden Windjammer Festival**

John Viehman presented information to the Board about the impact of the Camden Windjammer Festival in terms of economic benefit, publicity for the region, and reinforcement of Camden's unique icon of the windjammer. He said that the Festival provides four million media impressions and brings in \$200,000 through the course of the weekend.

Viehman told the group that this year the Festival, which operates as an independent 501(c)3 non-profit, lost \$3000 due to insurance that had to be purchased. To resolve the insurance situation, an option of bringing the event under the Town's umbrella as part of Camden's official committee structure was discussed.

Pat thanked the Festival volunteers who were present. She summarized a meeting that had been held involving committee members and others, where participants felt it was important to continue the festival. She offered to outline alternatives to the present committee structure and bring options back to the Board. Don White said he was in favor of developing a new model that the Board could look at early in the year. Martin Cates suggested that a workshop be scheduled at that time with members of the Windjammer Festival Committee.

### **Convene as Wastewater Commissioners**

*John French made a motion to adjourn as Select Board and convene as Wastewater Commissioners. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

#### **A. Appointment of Interim Wastewater Treatment Superintendent**

Pat Finnigan noted that Ross Parker was retiring and cited the tremendous job he'd done for the community for many years. She said that Sheldon Main who had been serving as Senior Treatment Plant Operator had offered to step in to serve in an interim capacity.

*John French made a motion to appoint Sheldon Main as Interim Wastewater Treatment Superintendent until a permanent appointment is made. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

### **Adjourn**

*Don White made a motion to adjourn as Wastewater Commissioners and convene as Select Board. John French seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

## Select Board

### A. Appointment of Tax Collector/Deputy Town Clerk

Pat Finnigan said that Camden's former Tax Collector Theresa Butler had taken the position of Deputy Treasurer for the City of Belfast. Finnigan recommended Brenda Fisher of Thomaston to replace Butler as Tax Collector/Deputy Town Clerk.

*John French made a motion to confirm the appointment of Brenda Fisher as Tax Collector/Deputy Clerk. James Heard seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

### Adjourn

*John French made a motion to adjourn as Select Board and convene as Board of Assessors. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

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### Board of Assessors

Beth Doan, assistant to the Tax Assessor, offered explanations for the five abatements under consideration.

- 1. Request for Abatement of Real Estate Taxes for property owned by Thomas & Carrie Edstrom located at 24 Mt. Bettie Street, Tax Map 114 Lot 131 for the 2014-2015 tax year in the amount of \$698.41.**

*John French made a motion to approve the request for Abatement of Real Estate Taxes for property owned by Thomas & Carrie Edstrom located at 24 Mt. Bettie Street, Tax Map 114 Lot 131 for the 2014-2015 tax year in the amount of \$698.41. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

- 2. Request for Abatement of Real Estate Taxes for property owned by John Scholz and Margaret Barclay located at 375 Hosmer Pond Road, Tax Map 227 Lot 100 for the 2014-2015 tax year in the amount of \$559.88**

*John French made a motion to approve the request for Abatement of Real Estate Taxes for property owned by John Scholz and Margaret Barclay located at 375 Hosmer Pond Road, Tax Map 227 Lot 100 for the 2014-2015 tax year in the amount of \$559.88. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

- 3. Request for Abatement of Real Estate Taxes for property owned by John & Ellen Clause located at 78 Bay View Street, Tax Map 125 Lot 8 for the 2014-2015 tax year in the amount of \$1,222.22.**

*Leonard Lookner made a motion to approve the request for Abatement of Real Estate Taxes for property owned by John & Ellen Claussen located at 78 Bay View Street, Tax Map 125 Lot 8 for the 2014-2015 tax year in the amount of \$1,222.22. John French seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

- 4. Request for Abatement of Real Estate Taxes for property owned by John Griffith and Julia Porter located at 25 Neil haven Drive, Tax Map 123 Lot 18 for the 2014-2015 tax year in the amount of \$759.74.**

*Don White made a motion to approve the request for Abatement of Real Estate Taxes for property owned by John Griffith and Julia Porter located at 25 Neil haven Drive, Tax Map 123 Lot 18 for the 2014-2015 tax year in the amount of \$759.74. Leonard Lookner seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

**5. Request to approve a Supplemental Tax Warrant in the amount of \$3,824.67 assessed to the First, NA (25 Neil haven Drive)**

*Leonard Lookner made a motion to approve the request to approve a Supplemental Tax Warrant in the amount of \$3,824.67 assessed to the First, NA (25 Neilhaven Drive). John French seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

**Adjourn**

*John French made a motion to adjourn as Board of Assessors and convene as Select Board. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

**Select Board**

**1. Communications, Presentations, and Recognitions**

**a) Toboggan Nationals “Down the Chute” Rotary Club event**

Sandy Cox of West Bay Rotary asked permission to hold the annual “Down the Cute” beer and wine-tasting event at the Snow Bowl during Toboggan Nationals weekend. John Scholz, neighbor to the Snow Bowl, spoke in support of the event.

*John French made a motion to give permission to the Rotary Club to hold the annual “Down the Chute” event at 25<sup>th</sup> Annual U.S. National Toboggan Championships on February 6, 2015. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

**b) Report of the Police Chief regarding Cuzzy’s**

Police Chief Randy Gagne reported on progress at Cuzzy’s, relating to the 90-day restriction that had been placed due to noise complaints. Gagne told the Board that owner Chris Cousins had complied fully with the requirement to close his back deck at 11pm and had proactively communicated with the department on a consistent basis. The Chief spoke about establishing a decibel level that would be accepted by neighbors that could be used by the department as a clearly defined delineation.

Chris Cousins spoke to the Board and answered questions. He said he supported establishing a regular decibel level because it would serve as a more definitive tool than the current method of making an arbitrary decision on what is reasonable. John Scholz spoke from the Planning Board’s perspective about the ordinance.

Duncan Lockie, Camden resident and employee of Cappy’s, supported having the back deck open for when local hospitality workers finish their evening shifts.

*Don White made a motion to allow Cuzzy’s to go back to normal business hours with continued monitoring by the Camden Police Department. Martin Cates seconded the motion. It was approved by a vote of 4-1 (John French opposed).*

**c) Request to apply for Recreational Trail Development (RTP) Grant (Riverwalk)**

Pathways Committee Chair Geoffrey Scott requested to submit a grant application to the Maine Department of Conservation’s Recreational Trail Program for \$32,807 to fund the construction of a

portion of a Riverwalk extending across Seabright Park. As part of the grant, he said, the local match would not exceed \$6,663.

*James Heard made a motion to support applying for a Recreational Trail Development Grant in the amount of \$32,807 from the State Bureau of Parks and Lands for the construction of the Riverwalk trail project on the Seabright Park parcel. Leonard Lookner seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

### **3. Citizen Comments**

Owen Cassas of Rockport talked about the upcoming election and the quality of the community.

#### **Board Comments**

Don White spoke about the Friends of Midcoast Maine's upcoming Community Institute where a demonstration project would be installed on the Public Landing.

White advised extra safety on Halloween with trick-or-treaters out in the streets. He also suggested that more community meetings be held during January on the topic of the \$24 million middle school bond.

Leonard Lookner spoke about the middle school issue. He said that mechanical systems were generally functioning well at the current school and that reasons for constructing a new school were more subjective than objective. Lookner also encouraged citizens to participate in the upcoming vote.

### **4. Approval of Select Board Minutes dated October 7, 2014**

*Don White made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2014 meeting. John French seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

### **5. Town Manager Report**

The Town Manager reminded voters that they can register to vote at the Town Office or at the polls on voting day. She said that 700 absentee ballots had come in.

Finnigan spoke about the Pop Tech Conference which had been based at the Town Office and commended Letha Filderman and others, including Town staff, who had worked hard to make the event successful.

The Town Manager said that the Knox County Budget process had begun, that meetings are open to the public, and that some increase would be expected for Camden.

With regard to the Harbor Ordinance amendment on piers, Finnigan noted that the Town Attorney was collecting information on property rights and that assessment data is being collected as well.

Lastly, Finnigan requested that several Select Board workshops be scheduled during November. It was decided that a workshop Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> would focus on Harbor issues (fisherman's hoist, pier ordinance, and harbor budget); that a workshop with the School Superintendent would be held Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>; and that a workshop on Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> would focus on administrative and budgetary matters.

## **6. Select Board Member Reports**

Don White reported on the Historic Resources Committee meeting and said that Larry Gross was retiring from the Cemetery Association. He told the group that the Opera House Committee may launch a movie night and noted some upcoming films that would be shown at the Opera House.

Don White also reported that the Library Trustees had elected a new member. He said the Planning Board had approved the cell towers to be erected on the Knox Mill smokestack as well as the modular structure for the ski rental shop at the Snow Bowl. He said the Planning Board is also discussing the proposed Business Opportunity Zone.

Jim Heard reported on the Parks and Recreation meeting, saying that seasons pass sales are \$55,000 ahead of last year. He said that the overall improvements were under-funded by \$670,000 and that while items such as lighting had been under-budgeted, the redevelopment group is going full steam ahead to meet the challenge.

## **7. New Business**

### **A. Appointment of John Arnold as a regular member of the Community and Economic Development Advisory Committee (CEDAC)**

*Don White made a motion to appoint John Arnold as a regular member of CEDAC. John French seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

### **B. Confirmation of new Camden Public Library Trustee, Dennis McGuirk and re-appointment of Leslie Curtis, both of Camden.**

*Leonard Lookner made a motion to confirm the appointment of Dennis McGuirk and the reappointment of Leslie Curtis to the Camden Public Library Board of Trustees. James Heard seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

### **C. Request by the Camden Conservation Commission to use \$400 in reserve funds**

Pat Finnigan said that the Conservation Commission was requesting to use \$400 of their \$2,000 in reserve funds for educational programs on conservation. There was discussion on using some of the reserve funds for planting trees.

*Don White made a motion to approve the request of the Camden Conservation Commission to use \$400 in reserve funds to pay an honorarium to experts who can present educational programs to advance conservation. Leonard Lookner seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

## **Adjourn**

*Leonard Lookner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Don White seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously and the Board adjourned at 8:30pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen Brace  
Recording Secretary